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MR. AARON: My name is Chris Aaron. I'm

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1 an aide of Congresswoman Diana DeGette. She's asked me  
2 to read a statement she has prepared for you all today.

3 Solving this country's nuclear waste  
4 question is essential to the future environmental  
5 health and safety of this country. In our attempts to  
6 utilize nuclear power, we have created dangerous  
7 radioactive waste and by-product which needs to be  
8 properly secured and stored.

9 To date, we as a nation have struggled on  
10 where and how to properly dispose of this waste without  
11 compounding or exposing United States citizens to  
12 unnecessary risks.

13 [The primary concern for my constituency is  
14 the potential for accidents during transportation of  
15 spent nuclear fuel through the dangerous mountain  
16 passes and heavily populated urban areas of Colorado.]

17 I understand that both I-70 and I-25 are  
18 candidates for transportation of this waste.

19 In 1984, Denver survived a brush with  
20 disaster from a deadly cargo when a tractor/trailer  
21 carrying torpedoes rolled on two Colorado's most  
22 congested highways, the intersection of I-25 and I-70  
23 also known as the mousetrap. This tied up traffic for  
24 most of the day. Fortunately, the torpedoes did not  
25 detonate but it brings home the seriousness of the

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1 subject, and that it is impossible to plan for all  
2 contingencies.

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continued

3 If this waste moves, there must be  
4 assurances that it would be transported with the utmost  
5 care and attention to public health and the  
6 environment. In addition we must provide local  
7 communities and support personnel proper funding and  
8 training to prepare them in the event of an accident.

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9 I also remain concerned about the  
10 designation of Yucca Mountain as a temporary storage  
11 facility without a final determination on its  
12 suitability as a permanent storage facility. The  
13 selection and utilization of the permanent storage  
14 facility must be based on sound science, and it must be  
15 officially certified by the Department of Energy as a  
16 safe, long-term disposal site.

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17 We should not jump to a decision if  
18 there's any question that a disposal site will not  
19 protect the American people today or in the future.

20 Thank you for the opportunity to submit  
21 comments today.

22 MR. BROWN: Thanks very much.

23 Janet Greenwald.